

OREGON.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF OREGON TERRITORY,

RELATIVE TO

*Their present situation and wants.*

AUGUST 10, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on Territories, and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :*

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of Oregon Territory, would respectfully beg leave once more to lay before your honorable body a brief statement of their situation and wants.

Having called upon the government of the United States so often in vain, we have almost despaired of receiving its protection; yet we trust that our present situation, when fully laid before you, will at once satisfy your honorable body of the great necessity of extending the strong arm of guardianship and protection over this remote but beautiful and valuable portion of the United States dominion.

Our relations with the proud and powerful tribes of Indians residing east of the Cascade mountains, hitherto uniformly amicable and pacific, have recently assumed quite a different character. They have shouted the war-whoop, and crimsoned their tomahawks in the blood of our citizens. The Cayuse tribe, after committing numerous outrages and robberies upon the late emigrants, have, without the semblance of provocation or excuse, murdered eleven American citizens. Among the number were Dr. Marcus Whitman and his amiable wife, members of the American Board of Foreign Missions.

Called upon to resent this outrage, we feel sensibly our weakness and inability to enter into a war with powerful tribes of Indians. Such outrages, however, cannot be suffered to pass unpunished. It will only be the commencement of further and more extensive murders, and our hitherto peaceful settlements will become the scene of fierce and violent warfare. We do not doubt the readiness of the people of this country to defend their lives and property, and to submit to all the privations incident to a state of war in a new and remote settlement like this.

Circumstances warrant your memorialists in believing that many of the powerful tribes inhabiting the upper valley of the Columbia have formed an alliance for the purpose of carrying on hostilities against our settlements.

The number of the white population of Oregon is alarmingly insignificant compared with the swarms of Indians which throng its valleys. To repel the attack of so formidable a foe and protect our families and property from violence and rapine, will require more strength than we possess. We are deficient in many of the grand essentials of war, such as men, arms, and treasure; for them our sole reliance is on the government of the United States; we have the right to expect your aid, and you are in justice bound to extend it. For although we are separated from our native land by a range of mountains whose lofty altitudes are mantled in eternal snow; although three thousand miles—nearly two-thirds of which is a howling wild—lie between us and the federal capital, yet our hearts are unalienated from the land of our birth, our love for the free and noble institutions under which it was our fortune to be born and nurtured, remains unabated; in short, we are *Americans* still, residing in a country over which the government of the United States have the sole and acknowledged right of sovereignty; and, under such circumstances, we have a right to claim the benefits of its laws and protection.

Your memorialists would avail themselves of this opportunity to invite your attention to other subjects of deep and vital interest to the citizens of this Territory. The very nature of our compact formed between the citizens of a republic and the subjects and official representatives of a monarchy is such, that the ties of political union could not be drawn so closely as to produce that stability and strength sufficient to form an efficient government. This union between the democrats of a republic and wealthy aristocratic subjects of a monarchy could not be formed without reserving to themselves the right of allegiance to their respective governments.

Political jealousy and strong party feeling have tended to thwart and render important the acts of government, from its very nature weak and inefficient.

In establishing a regular form of government, and creating tribunals for the adjustment of the rights of individuals, and the prevention and punishment of crime, a debt has accumulated, which, though an insignificant amount, your memorialists can devise no means of liquidating. The revenue laws, from not being properly executed, while they are burdensome to classes of our citizens and sections of country, are wholly disregarded by others, and whole counties, which for numerical strength are equal to any in the Territory, and fully participating in all the advantages of our compact, have never contributed any assistance in bearing the common burden.

To coerce obedience to our temporary government would at once destroy the great object which called it into existence—the peace and harmony of our country. Anxiously looking forward to that happy period when we should again be under the protection of our revered and parent republic, we have rather endeavored to maintain peace by forbearance than to command obedience by force, hoping that the dangers and difficulties to be apprehended from domestic discord and from the savages around us, would be postponed until we became an acknowledged people, and under the protection of our mother country.

The action of your honorable body in regard to the land in Oregon

would seem to justify the expectation that liberal grants would be made to our citizens; yet the uncertainty of our title and the uneasiness which is felt upon this subject, urges us to press this subject upon your attention. Our citizens, before leaving their homes in the United States for Oregon, have had the strongest inducements held out by Congress to settle this country, and their just expectations will not be met short of a liberal donation of land.

On the subject of filling the offices that will be created in the event of the extension of the jurisdiction of the United States over this Territory, your memorialists would respectfully represent that, as the pioneers of the American population in this country, the present citizens of Oregon have strong claims upon the patronage of the general government, and that it would be gratifying to have them filled by our fellow citizens; but as few of an equally deserving number can enjoy this mark of approbation of our parent republic, and in view of our peculiar and difficult situation, it is the opinion of your memorialists that it will be better for the future prosperity of our country, and that the great mass of the people will concur with them in requesting that important and responsible offices created here, such as the office of governor and the several judgeships, should be filled with men of the best talent and the most approved integrity, without regard to their present location.

If it be at all the intention of our honored parent to spread her guardian wing over her sons and daughters in Oregon, she surely will not refuse to do it now, when they are struggling with all the ills of a weak and temporary government, and when perils are thickening around them and preparing to burst upon their heads.

When the ensuing summer's sun shall have dispelled the snow from the mountains, we shall look with glowing hope and restless anxiety for the coming of your laws and your arms.

The accompanying documents will afford additional information concerning some of the subjects of which we have spoken.

To insure the speedy conveyance of these papers to the federal government, your memorialists have elected Joseph L. Meek, esq., a special messenger to bear the same, and respectfully ask your honorable body to make him such compensation therefor as you may deem just.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.,

ROBERT NEWELL, *Speaker.*

Attest:

CALVIN W. COOKE, *Clerk.*

I, Frederic Prigg, secretary of Oregon Territory, hereby certify that the above is a full and correct copy of the memorial to Congress passed by the House of Representatives in the session of 1847, and now on file in my office at Oregon city.

FREDERIC PRIGG,  
*Secretary Oregon Territory.*

Dated at office this 25th January, 1848.

## MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

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OREGON CITY, *December 29, 1847.*

GENTLEMEN: It is made my duty to forward to your honorable body the memorial passed by the legislature of Oregon, and the papers containing the documents referred to in the memorial. All of which is enclosed herewith.

I have the honor to remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

GEO. ABERNETHY,  
*Governor of Oregon Territory.*

To the honorable the SENATE and HOUSE

OF REPRESENTATIVES of the *United States in Congress assembled.*

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#### GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

*To the honorable the Legislative Assembly of Oregon:*

FELLOW-CITIZENS: Contrary to the expectation of all who reside in this Territory, you are again convened under the provisional government of Oregon.

After learning that the boundary-line question was settled, there was hardly a doubt resting in the mind of any individual with regard to the extension of the jurisdiction of the United States over this Territory. We have been sadly disappointed, and hope, which was so fondly cherished, begins to sink into despair in the hearts of many.

Our situation is not a very pleasant one on account of the uncertainty attending it; we may be in less than six months under the laws and government of the United States, and we may, on the other hand, exist in our present state for several years. This uncertainty will no doubt embarrass you in your proceedings.

If we remain as we are for any length of time, ways and means must be devised for raising a more extensive revenue. The laws should be published in a convenient form, a fund set apart for treating with Indians, and many other things provided for that we have thus far dispensed with, but which must be attended to, in order that we may carry out the principles under which we have associated.

This being the first session of the present Congress, they will have

more time to devote to the formation of a government for this Territory than at the last session. The probability is that peace between the United States and Mexico will have been restored, and relieve Congress from the cares and anxieties attendant upon a war, and also relieve the government from a very heavy expense which must necessarily attend the carrying on of a war. These things lead to the hope, that among the first acts of Congress will be the passage of an act to establish a territorial government in Oregon. This will release us from our present embarrassments and place us in a permanent form of government. Hoping that this may be the case, I will call your attention to such subjects as are most pressing in their character, and which cannot well be dispensed with.

The judiciary as now regulated answers all the purposes required of it, and proves to be a far better system than the old one; there is one thing, however, needed very much in connexion with it, and that is a prison. Should an offender be sentenced to imprisonment by the judge, there is no place in the Territory to confine him, and consequently he escapes the punishment that his crime justly merits. This should not be so, and I hope you will provide means during your present session for the erection of a jail.

In my message of 1845, I recommended that in addition to gold and silver, wheat should be the only article used in the country as a legal tender; the legislature added treasury drafts and orders on solvent merchants. I would recommend the repeal of that part of the act which constitutes treasury drafts and orders on solvent merchants a lawful tender; receiving treasury drafts, however, in payment of taxes and debts due the government. Gold and silver is much more plentiful in the Territory now than it was two years ago, and could be made the only lawful tender hereafter without detriment to the community, still I think wheat had better remain in connexion with gold and silver; it is a staple article, and can always be disposed of to merchants and others.

I would recommend an alteration in the law relating to the recording of land claims. The organic law requires that claims be recorded in the office of the territorial recorder. This answered very well while our population was small, and nearly all living in one district; but our population is increasing rapidly, and spreading out over a large extent of territory; new counties have been formed, and probably in a short time other counties will be set off, and lands taken up still farther from the Territorial office than at the present time. In view of this I think it advisable that you propose an amendment to the organic law, making the clerk of the county court recorder of all land claims located within his county, and dispense with the office of territorial recorder.

The act entitled "An act to regulate the manufacture and sale of wine and distilled spirituous liquors," passed at the last session of the legislature, I would recommend for revision. An act to prevent the introduction, manufacture and sale of ardent spirits in Oregon would be far more preferable to a majority of the people in this Territory. In our early history, ardent spirits was unknown among us. Every effort was made to keep it out of the Territory, and to a great extent successfully, until 1846, when, owing to the defects in the law passed at the session of 1845, some persons violated the statute, and liquor was made and sold in the Territory, but it was not done openly, nor carried on to any great extent. The last legislature licensed the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits. I hope

the present legislature will repeal the license law. Would it not be better to have the law opposed to ardent spirits than to have the manufacture and sale of liquor legalized by statute. It is argued by some persons that you have not the right to put it down; by others, that it is interfering with the liberties of the people, and depriving them of their rights. I think you have the right to prohibit its introduction; no one can dispute your right to regulate it down to the wants of the medical profession.

With regard to taking away the liberties of the people, prohibitory laws are passed by all legislatures. I will simply give one instance. In a law of Massachusetts, passed 23d of March, 1833, it is declared that "any person who shall, in violation of the law, sell a lottery ticket, or knowingly suffer one to be sold in any building owned or rented by him, within the Commonwealth, he shall forfeit and pay a sum not less than one hundred nor more than two thousand dollars; and that if any one, after conviction, shall repeat the offence, he shall be sentenced, for every subsequent offence, to labor in the house of correction, or in the common jail, for a term of time not less than three months, nor more than twelve months." This was not considered by the people as taking away their liberties, though it deprived some of the liberty of ruining themselves, and other from making money out of their ruin. And is not this statute founded on the true principle of legislation, not to license evil, but to defend the community from it. Other States have passed similar laws. When a crime is committed by any person while under the influence of liquor, where does the responsibility rest? The individual, when sober, informs us he did not know what he was doing—the seller says, I have a license to sell liquor, and sold it to the man according to law. Would it not be for the advantage of the Territory to take away this plea from the seller? The license system throws a bulwark around the dealer in ardent spirits, behind which he entrenches himself. Remove this bulwark—plea the law against him—and public sentiment will put him down. The temperance cause is an onward one. We hear of State after State deciding through the ballot box that no license to sell liquor shall be granted within its borders, and the Supreme Court at Washington, to which several cases had been carried up from the circuit courts arising from the liquor question, decided at the last term of the Court "that the States have a right to regulate the trade in, and licensing of, the sale of ardent spirits."

Our organic law says the legislature shall have power to regulate the introduction, manufacture, or sale of ardent spirits. In the United States some of the States prohibit the granting of licenses. The Supreme Court says the States have a right to regulate the sale of ardent spirits; and under this right to regulate, the States prohibit, and the court upholds them in it. The question, shall the license system be continued, or shall the introduction, manufacture, and sale of ardent spirits be prohibited, is in your hands; and I hope in deciding upon it, you will take the welfare, happiness, and future prosperity of the Territory into consideration. You are well aware of our situation with regard to the Indian population, and have seen the effect liquor has upon them. You may have heard them say, "if the Boston people would not furnish us the liquor we would not become such fools."

I leave the question with you, sincerely hoping that should we come under the jurisdiction of the United States the coming year, we may be found with a law on our statute books prohibiting the sale of liquor in this Territory.

Our relations with the Indians becomes every year more embarrassing. They see the white man occupying their lands—rapidly filling up the country, and they put in a claim for pay. They have been told that a chief would come out from the United States and treat with them for their lands. They have been told this so often that they begin to doubt the truth of it. At all events, they say “he will not come until we are all dead, and then what good will blankets do us? We want something now.” This leads to trouble between the settler and the Indians about him. Some plan should be devised by which a fund can be raised and presents made to the Indians of sufficient value to keep them quiet until an agent arrives from the United States.

A number of robberies have been committed by the Indians in the upper country on the immigrants as they were passing through their territory. This should not be allowed to pass. An appropriation should be made by you sufficient to enable the superintendent of Indian affairs to take a small party in the spring and demand restitution of the property or its equivalent in horses. Without an appropriation, a sufficient party could not be induced to go up there, as the trip is an expensive one.

The immigration the past season has been much larger than any preceding one—amounting to between four and five thousand souls. They have all arrived in the settlements, unless there should be a few families still at the Dalles and Cascades, and scattered themselves over the Territory. The majority of them are farmers and mechanics. They will add much to the future welfare and prosperity of Oregon.

During the past season we have been visited by a number of vessels, some of them drawing more water than the vessels that have usually visited us. I am happy to say they received full cargoes on board, and crossed the bar in safety. The provisions of the pilot law have been carried out, and its good effects are already visible. The able pilot at the mouth of the river has made himself fully acquainted with the channel and currents, thus diminishing the dangers that formerly attended vessels coming to the river. The time is not far distant when our river will be entered with more ease and facility than many of the ports in the United States on the Atlantic coast, and captains will wonder why the entrance was so much dreaded, forgetting that they are reaping the benefits of experience.

The cause of education demands your attention. School districts should be formed in the different counties, and school-houses built; teachers would be employed by the people I have no doubt, and thus pave the way for more advanced institutions.

In closing, allow me to unite with you in expressions of gratification to that Being who has preserved us during the past year, and granted us the blessings of health, peace, and prosperity. May we continue to merit His mercies by acknowledging our dependence on him and keeping His law before us.

GEO. ABERNETHY.

OREGON CITY, 7th December, 1847.

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From the Oregon Spectator, December 9, 1847.

OREGON CITY, *December 8, 1847.*

GENTLEMEN: It is my painful duty to lay the enclosed communications before your honorable body. They will give you the particulars of the



horrible massacre committed by the Cayuse Indians on the residents at Waiilatpu. This is one of the most distressing circumstances that has occurred in our Territory, and one that calls for immediate and prompt action. I am aware, to meet this case, funds will be required, and suggest the propriety of applying to the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company and the merchants of this place for a loan to carry out whatever plan you may fix upon. I have no doubt but the expenses attending this affair will be promptly met by the United States government.

The wives and children of the murdered persons, Rev. Mr. Spaulding and family, and all others who may be in the upper country, should at once be proffered assistance, and an escort to convey them to a place of safety.

I have the honor to remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

GEORGE ABERNETHY.

To the Hon. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF OREGON.

—  
FORT VANCOUVER, *December 7, 1847.*

SIR: Having received intelligence last night, by special express, from Walla Walla, of the destruction of the missionary settlement at Waiilatpu by the Cayuse Indians of that place, we hasten to communicate the particulars of that dreadful event, one of the most atrocious which darkens the annals of Indian crime.

Our lamented friend Dr. Whitman, his amiable and accomplished lady, with nine other persons, have fallen victims to the fury of these remorseless savages, who appear to have been instigated to this appalling crime by a horrible suspicion which had taken possession of their superstitious minds, in consequence of the number of deaths from dysentery and measles, that Dr. Whitman was silently working the destruction of their tribe by administering poisonous drugs under the semblance of salutary medicines.

With a goodness of heart and benevolence truly his own, Dr. Whitman had been laboring incessantly since the appearance of the measles and dysentery among his Indian converts, to relieve their sufferings, and such has been the reward of his generous labors.

A copy of Mr. McBean's letter herewith, will give you all the particulars known to us of this indiscribably painful event.

Mr. Ogden, with a strong party, will leave this place as soon as possible for Walla Walla, to endeavor to prevent further evil; and we beg to suggest to you the propriety of taking instant measures for the protection of the Rev. Mr. Spaulding, who, for the sake of his family, ought to abandon the Clear Water Mission without delay and retire to a place of safety, as he cannot remain at that isolated station without imminent risk in the present excited and irritable state of the Indian population.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

JAMES DOUGLAS.

GEORGE ABERNETHY, Esq.

FORT NEZ PERCES, *November 30, 1847.*

GENTLEMEN: It is my painful task to make you acquainted with a horrid massacre which took place yesterday at Wailatpu, about which I was first apprised early this morning by an American who had escaped, of the name of Hall, and who reached this half naked and covered with blood. As he started at the onset, the information I obtained was not satisfactory. He, however, assured me that the Doctor and another man were killed, but could not tell me the persons who did it, and how it originated.

I immediately determined on sending my interpreter and one man to Dr. Whitman's to find out the truth, and, if possible, to rescue Mr. Manzan's two sons, and any of the survivors. It so happened that before the interpreter proceeded half way, the two boys were met on their way hither escorted by Nicholas Finlay, it having been previously settled among the Indians that these boys should not be killed, as also the American women and children. Teloquoit is the chief who recommended this measure. I presume you are well acquainted that fever and dysentery has been raging here and in this vicinity, in consequence of which a great number of Indians have been swept away, but more especially at the Doctor's place where he attended upon the Indians. About thirty souls of the Cayuse tribe died one after another, who eventually believed the Doctor poisoned them, and in which opinion they were unfortunately confirmed by one of the Doctor's party. As far as I have been able to learn, this has been the sole cause of the dreadful butchery.

In order to satisfy any doubt on that point, it is reported that they requested the Doctor to administer medicine to three of their friends, two of whom were really sick, but the third only feigning illness, and that the three were corpses next morning. After they were buried, and while the Doctor's men were employed slaughtering an ox, the Indians came one by one to his house, with their arms concealed under their blankets, and being all assembled, commenced firing on those slaughtering the animal, and in a moment the Doctor's house was surrounded. The Doctor and a young lad brought up by himself were shot in the house. His lady, Mr. Rogers, and the child had taken refuge in the garret, but were dragged down and despatched (excepting the children) outside, where their bodies were left exposed. It is reported that it was not their intention to kill Mr. Rogers, in consequence of an avowal to the following effect, which he is said to have made, and which nothing but a desire to save his life could have prompted him to do. He said, "I was one evening lying down, and I heard the Doctor telling Rev. Mr. Spalding that it was best you should be all poisoned at once; but that the latter told him it was best to continue slowly and cautiously, and between this and spring not a soul would remain, when they would take possession of your lands, cattle, and horses."

These are only Indian reports, and no person can believe the Doctor capable of such an action without being as ignorant and brutal as the Indians themselves. One of the murderers, not having been made acquainted with the above understanding, shot Mr. Rogers.

It is well understood that eleven lives were lost and three wounded. It is also rumored they are to make an attack upon the fort. Let them come! if they will not listen to reason; though I have only five men at the establishment I am prepared to give them a warm reception. The gates are

We acknowledge with sensibility the fruits of your devotion to the noble cause in the precious contributions of the intellectual wealth so abundant among the nations of the Old World which you have brought to us. It is gratifying to know that the generous sympathies by which you have been sustained are not confined to the high public functionaries of France, but that they extend to all classes of your countrymen. The donations of M. Collas, and M. Desforges are proofs of the general intelligence and liberality which distinguish the French people.

Though the United States are too young as a nation to have collected the stores of science, literature, and art, in which France is so rich, they will not fail, I am sure, to reciprocate with equal warmth the noble enthusiasm of which you are the representative.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,  
JAS. ALFRED PEARCE.

M. VATTEMARE.

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JOINT LIBRARY COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS—*July 25, 1848.*

*Resolved*, That Alexandre Vattemare be appointed agent of the Joint Committee on the Library, to carry into effect the donation and exchange of such books, and other publications, as are or shall be placed at the disposal of the committee for this purpose, under the "act to regulate the exchange of certain documents and other publications of Congress," said agent to be in all respects subject to the directions of the committee.

*Resolved*, That said Vattemare's agency shall extend only to exchanges between the United States and foreign countries or governments, and not to domestic exchanges.

*Resolved*, That the chairman draw from the treasury, and place in the hands of the said Alexandre Vattemare, fifteen hundred dollars, part of the sum appropriated by the said act, to be applied to his personal expenses already incurred, and to be incurred during the year ending the 30th June, 1849, and to defraying the expenses of clerk hire, freight, rent of rooms, and other necessary expenditures of his agency; and that said agent shall annually account to and with the committee concerning the expenditure of said sum.

*Resolved*, That said Vattemare be furnished, for the purposes of exchange, with the following works:

FRANCE.

*1st.—For the American Library of the city of Paris.*

1. American Archives (first seven volumes.)
2. Little & Brown's United States Statutes.
3. United States Exploring Expedition.
4. Collection of the documents published by order of either House, from 1840 to 1848.
5. All such duplicates of American works in the Library of Congress, as can be spared, and not already in the American Library of the city of Paris.

*2d.—For the Library of the National Assembly.*

1. American Archives, (the last four volumes.)
2. Little & Brown's United States Statutes.
3. United States Exploring Expedition.
4. Congressional Documents, as complete as possible since 1840.

*3d.—For the Council of State.*

1. Little & Brown's United States Statutes.
2. American Archives, (first seven volumes.)

*4th.—For the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences.*

1. American Archives.
2. Little & Brown's United States Statutes.
3. Collection of Congressional Documents.

*5th.—For the Department of Public Instruction.*

1. American Archives.

*6th.—For the National Library.*

1. American Archives.
2. Little & Brown's United States Statutes.
3. Congressional Documents.

*7th.—For the Library of St. Genevieve, (used by the law schools.)*

1. Little & Brown's United States Statutes.
2. American Archives.

*8th.—For the Library of the Arsenal.*

1. American Archives.
2. Collection of Legislative Documents.

*9th.—For the Minister of Commerce.*

1. Little & Brown's United States Statutes, (already transmitted.)
2. Collection of the standard Weights and Measures.

*10th.—For the Department of the Navy.*

1. Little & Brown's Statutes of the United States.
2. United States Exploring Expedition.
3. Congressional Documents.
4. American Archives.



remembrance, let them be pursued with unrelenting hatred and hostility until their life blood has atoned for their infamous deeds; let them be hunted as beasts of prey, let their name and race be blotted from the face of the earth, and "the places that once knew them, know them no more forever." Oh! how terrible should be the retribution. There are no mitigating circumstances. They knew the enormity of their conduct. Their unpardonable insult was achieved with the coolest determination and the most unmistakable intention. Then let the knife be bared, and in throwing away the scabbard, let the cry be "war to the knife and the knife to the hilt."

Peter Skeen Ogden, esq., chief factor of the Hudson Bay Company, reached this place on Wednesday evening, accompanied by the survivors of the massacre, whom his courageous energy and indefatigable efforts had delivered from fearful servitude. Thanks would seem but a trifling recompense for such distinguished service. To him we are indebted for our principal information and the various documents subjoined.

Mr. Ogden arrived at Walla Walla on the 19th of December last, having accomplished the journey from Fort Vancouver in ten days. Immediately upon his arrival at Fort Nez Perces, in the evening, and during the second day, he despatched couriers to call a meeting of the Cayuse chiefs; on the third day, in the evening, two chiefs arrived accompanied by about thirty men, Cayuses. The council assembled on the 23d ult., in which the several speeches were made, the substance of which will be found appended. The council continued until late at night and was concluded upon the savages agreeing to deliver up the captives within six days, on the promise of a ransom being paid for them. In the intermediate time speeches were made to the Nez Perces in regard to the surrender of Mr. Spalding. During this space of time Mr. Ogden suffered considerable anxiety of mind, fearing from the various reports in circulation and constantly reaching the fort, that the attempt had been fruitless and that the prisoners would not be restored.

On the evening of the 29th ult. a few of the principal men of the Cayuses arrived at the fort, bringing with them the captives, who, with some of their property, were conveyed in five wagons. Every preparation had been made to receive them so far as the limited means of the post would allow, and sure we are that the hospitalities extended on the occasion were the source of as much pleasure to the gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company as to the numerous recipients thereof. The day after the restoration the promised ransom was paid, and many speeches followed. A day or two thereafter brought Indian reports of the arrival of our troops at the Dalles, and the excitement consequent thereupon among the Indians, was so great that Mr. Ogden assured us that it was his firm conviction that had not the women and children been given up, they undoubtedly would all have been murdered. At the same time Mr. Ogden could make no downward movement in consequence of having pledged himself to await the arrival of Mr. Spalding and family, who happily made their appearance on the ensuing Saturday evening, escorted by a formidable body of Nez Perces. The greater part of that night was passed in council with these Indians, and on the following morning the line of departure was taken up for Fort Vancouver, the safety of the party, and their arrival at which place, was first communicated by the subjoined letter from James



Douglas, esq., which was received on Sunday week and its gratifying contents imparted to the congregation of the Methodist church.

We have received considerable other information relative to this melancholy affair, but so desultory in character that we hardly think it worth while at present to give it publication. One of the most horrible circumstances of the tragic event is, that of the two men who were prostrated by sickness at the time of the massacre, and nine days afterwards dragged from their beds, killed, and mangled in the most shocking manner. This shows plainly that there had been no reaction of feeling after the first massacre, nothing like regret for what had been done.

There will be many painfully interesting incidents, doubtless, hereafter to be told of this terrible tragedy—of intense suffering and hair breadth escapes—but the force of circumstances will prevent us telling them; may they find a more efficient chronicler. We cannot close, however, without alluding to the surprising escape of our friend, Mr. Stanley, the artist, who was returning from the mission of Walker and Eels, and on the day of the massacre encamped on Snake river. Two days after the sad event he reached within less than two miles of Waiilatpu, before he was apprised of it, when he took the trail to the fort, where he arrived in safety, having encountered, in his unarmed condition, but one of the murderous villains, who, by ready stratagem he succeeded in getting rid of.

Messrs. Walker and Eels, whose mission is situated in the "Spokan" country, it is thought are not in danger; in the event of it, however, they will, of course, fall back upon Fort Colville, the nearest place of safety. It is intended we understand, to discontinue the Catholic mission among the Cayuses for the present.

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FORT VANCOUVER,

Saturday 12h 40m. P. M

SIR: Mr. Ogden has this moment arrived with three boats from Walla Walla, and rejoice to say that he has brought down all the women and children from Waiilatpu, Mr. and Mrs. Spalding, and Mr. Stanley, the artist. Messrs. Walker and Eels were safe and well—they were not considered to be in danger. The reports of the later murders committed at Waiilatpu are all absolutely without foundation, not a life having been lost there, since the day of Dr. Whitman's death.

Mr. Ogden will visit the Falls on Monday and give you every information in his power respecting the Indians of the interior. The Cayuse, Walla Walla, Nez Perces, and Yakonias are said to have entered into an alliance for mutual defence.

In haste, yours respectfully,

JAMES DOUGLAS.

GEORGE ABERNETHY, esq.,

Governor.

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CLEAR WATER, December 10, 1847.

MY DEAR SIR: Will you have the kindness to lend me four blankets? Give two of them to these men, one to each. The five you had the kind-

ness to let me have were among the goods plundered at Wailatpu. Please to send also 10 shirts, 10 lbs. tobacco, 12 scalpors, and 20 awls. I am in great need of these things to pay for moving my property and family up the valley, some 10 miles where the Nez Perces are camped. I reached home on foot, travelling six nights, suffering from hunger, cold, and sore feet. Mr. Canfield escaped wounded, and reached this place three days before me. There are here 5 Americans, 2 Frenchmen, and my family, except my daughter, who is yet at Wailatpu. Please let me know about the women and children, and give other information. These people have pledged to protect us if we will do all we can to make peace, to prevent the Americans from coming up to avenge the late deaths. We have agreed to do so, and hope you will have the goodness to send to Governor Abernethy and request for sake of our lives, that they will keep quiet. Should the Americans come up I think it would prove our ruin and involve the country in war. We beg you to keep quiet. The Nez Perces wish to have peace continued. Could Mr. Grant come to see us it would be a great relief.

May the God of peace protect us and stay the work of blood.

Yours in love,

H. H. SPALDING.

MR. McBEAN.

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CLEAR WATER, *December 10, 1847.*

REVERENCED AND DEAR FRIEND: This hasty note may inform you that I am yet alive, through the astonishing mercy of God. The hand of our merciful God brought me to my family, after 6 days and nights from the time my dear friend furnished me with provisions, and I escaped from the Indians. My daughter is yet a captive, I fear, but in the hands of our kind Heavenly Father. Two Indians have gone for her.

My object in writing principally is to give information through you to the Cayuse, that it is our wish to have peace, that we do not wish Americans to come from below to avenge the wrong; we hope the Cayuse and Americans will be on friendly terms; that Americans will no more come into their country, unless they wish it. As soon as these men return, I hope, if alive, to send them to the governor, to prevent Americans coming up to molest the Cayuse for what is done.

I know that you will do all in your power for the relief of the captive women and children at Wailatpu, that you will spare no pains to appease and quiet the Indians. There are 5 Americans here, my wife and three children, one young woman, and two Frenchmen. We cannot leave the country without help. Our hope, under God, is your hands, and the hands of the H. H. B. Co. Can help come from that source? Please let this be known to the H. H. B. Co. Ask their advice and let me know. I am certain that should Americans attempt to come, it would be likely to prove the ruin of us all, in this upper country, and would involve the country. God grant that they will not attempt. At this moment I have obtained permission of the Indians to write more, but have but a moment. Please send this, or copy, to Governor Abernethy. The Nez Perces held a meeting yesterday; they pledged to protect us from the Cayuse if we would prevent the Americans from coming up to avenge the murders. This we

have pledged to do, and for this we beg for the sake of our lives at this place and at Mr. Walker's. By all means keep quiet; send no war report, send nothing but proposals of peace. They say they have buried the death of the Walla Walla chief's son, killed in California. They wish us to bury this offence. I hope to write soon direct to Governor Abernethy; but as yet the Indians are not willing, but are willing that I should send these hints through you. I hope you will send by all means and with all speed, to keep quiet in Wallamette. Could Mr. Grant come this way it would be a great favor to us, and do good to the Indians. I just learn that these Indians wish us to remain in this country as hostages of peace. They wish the communication for Americans to be kept open. We are willing to remain so if peace can be secured. It does not seem safe for us to attempt to leave the country in any way at present. May the God of heaven protect us and finally bring peace. These two men go to make peace, and when they return, if successful with the Cayuse, they will go to Wallamette.

We have learned that one man escaped to Walla Walla, was crossed over the river and went below; he would naturally suppose that all were killed; besides myself, another white man escaped, wounded, and reached my house 3 days before I did. Late Indian report says that no women, except Mrs. Whitman, or children were killed, but all are in captivity. This people, if the Cayuse will consent, will bring them all to this place. I travelled only nights and hid myself days, most of the way on foot, as my horses escaped from me—suffered some from cold, hunger, and sore feet—had no shoes, as I threw my boots away, not being able to wear them; also left blanket. God in mercy brought me here. From the white man who escaped, and from Indians, we learn that an Indian from the States, who was in the employ of Dr. Whitman, was at the head of the bloody affair, helped to demolish the windows, and take the property. We think the Cayuse have been urged on to do the dreadful deed. God in mercy forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Perhaps these men can bring my horses and things. Please give them all the particulars you have been able to learn, and what news has gone below. How do the women and children fare? How extensive is the war?

In giving this information, and by sending this letter below to Governor Abernethy, you will oblige your afflicted friend.

I would write directly to the governor, but the Indians wish me to rest till they return.

Yours in affliction, and with best wishes,

H. H. SPALDING.

To the BISHOP OF WALLA WALLA,  
or either of the Catholic Priests.

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FORT NES PERCES, December 23, 1848.

DEAR SIR: I have assembled all the chiefs and addressed them in regard to the helpless situation of yourself and the rest at Wailatpu, and I have got them to consent to deliver them all to me—yourself and those with you, save the two Canadians who are safe enough among the Indians. And have now to advise you to lose no time in joining me; at the

same time bear in mind, sir, you have no promise to make them, or payments to make; once more, use all the diligence possible to overtake us.

Yours truly,

P. S. OGDEN.

Rev. Mr. SPALDING.

CLEAR WATER, *December 25, 1847.*

MY DEAR SIR: Your kind favor of 23d instant came to hand this evening; it gives us great joy to learn that you are about to rescue the captives at Wailatpu—may the Lord enable you to land them safe at Vancouver. This people are unwilling that I should leave their country, and I have promised to return and live with them, provided the melancholy affair at Wailatpu can be settled, and the Nez Perces continue friendly to the whites and keep their hands clean from blood and plunder.

I shall make all expedition to collect my horses, pack up and be off. God willing, I hope to be at Walla Walla next Saturday. Mr. Craig and two Frenchmen stop in the country; our company therefore will consist of Mrs. Spalding and myself and three children, Miss Johnson, Messrs. Hart, Jackson, and Canfield.

I hope our little daughter has recovered her health, and that through the interposing mercy of God we shall yet meet in the land of the living. Should you find it to be your duty to leave before we can come, I desire that she may remain at the fort.

Your obedient servant,

H. H. SPALDING.

P. S.—I have just learned from the two who returned, that the Cayuse have resolved, should they learn that the Americans purpose to come up to avenge the death of those who have been massacred, that they will immediately fall upon myself and family and the other Americans in the country, and kill all. If it is possible for you to delay till we can arrive, it may be the means of saving our lives. Should you leave before, they may feel no restraint. Moreover, if a few of your men could come and meet us, we should deem it a great favor and it would be a great protection. We throw ourselves upon your good judgment.

May the God of peace protect and deliver us all in safety at your fort.

Yours, very truly,

H. H. SPALDING.

To PETER OGDEN, esq.

FORT NEZ PERCES, *December 31, 1847.*

MY DEAR SIR: Mr. Stanley has promised to give you a recital of the melancholy massacre of the worthy Doctor and his wife and nearly all the inmates of the mission.

On receiving this account at Vancouver, and that many unfortunate individuals were still remaining, the following day I started with

16 men, and reached this place on the 12th instant, and since that period have been employed in rescuing the captives, and have succeeded in securing all that were taken prisoners, and shall now take my departure to-morrow for Vancouver. In effecting this humane object I have endured many an anxious hour, and for the last two nights have not closed my eyes; but thanks to the Almighty, I have succeeded. During the captivity of the prisoners they have suffered every indignity, but fortunately were well provided with food. I have been enabled to effect my object without compromising myself or others, and it now remains with the American government to take what measures they may deem most beneficial to restore tranquility to this part of the country, and this, I apprehend, cannot be finally effected without blood being made to flow freely. So as not to compromise either party, I have made a heavy sacrifice of goods; but these, indeed, are of trifling value compared to the unfortunate beings I have rescued from the hands of these murderous wretches, and I feel truly happy. Let this suffice for the present.

On my arrival at the Dalles, Mr. Hindman's mission, the previous day, had been plundered of four horses in open day, and in the presence of all the inmates of the mission; and on consulting me on the propriety of remaining or removing under the present distracted state of the country, I advised him to move, leaving a trusty Indian, on whom he could rely, and who speaks the English language, to remain in charge of the establishment, and he would have started the same day I left it. I trust this arrangement will meet with your approbation—under existing circumstances could not conscientiously give any other.

Yours truly,

P. S. OGDEN.

Rev. E. WALKER, (TAWAT) THE YOUNG CHIEFS

#### MR. OGDEN'S ADDRESS

*To the most influential chiefs in behalf of the American families kept as hostages and prisoners by them.*

I regret to observe that all the chiefs I asked for are not present; two being absent. I expect the words I am about addressing you will be repeated to them, and your young men on your return to your camp.

It is now thirty years we have been among you; during this long period we have never had an instance of blood being spilled until the inhuman massacre which has so recently taken place. We are traders, and a different nation to the Americans; but recollect we supply you with ammunition not to kill the Americans. They are of the same color as ourselves, speak the same language, children of the same God, and humanity makes our hearts bleed when we behold you using them so cruelly! Besides this revolting butchery, have not the Indians pillaged, ill-treated the Americans and insulted their women when peaceably making their way to the Willamette? As chiefs, ought you to have connived at such conduct on the part of your young men? Was it not rather your duty to use your influence to prevent it? You tell me the young men committed these deeds without your knowledge. Why do we make you chiefs? If you have



no control over your young men, if you allow them to govern you, you are a set of hermaphrodites, and unworthy the appellation of men or chiefs. You young hot-headed men, I know that you pride yourselves upon your bravery and think no one can match you. Do not deceive yourselves. If you get the Americans to commence once, you will repent it, and war will not end until every man of you is cut off from the face of the earth. I am aware that a good many of your friends and relations have died through sickness; the Indians of other places have shared the same fate. It is not Doctor Whitman that has poisoned them; but God has commanded they should die. We are weak mortals and must submit, and trust you will avail yourselves of the opportunity, and by so doing, it may prove advantageous to you; but at the same time remember you alone will be responsible for the consequences. It is merely advice I give you. I hold forth no promise should war be declared against you. We have nothing to do with it. I have not come here to make you promises or hold out assistance. We have nothing to do with your quarrels. We remain neutral. On my return, if you wish it, I shall do all I can for you; but I do not promise you to prevent war. If you deliver me up all the prisoners I shall pay you for them on their being delivered; but let it not be said among you afterwards that I deceived you. I and Mr. Douglas represent the company; but I tell you once more we promise you nothing. We sympathise with these poor people, and wish to return them to their friends and relations by paying you for them. My request in behalf of the families concerns you; so decide for the best.

#### THE YOUNG CHIEF'S (TAWATOE) REPLY.

I rise to thank you for your good words. You white chiefs command obedience with those that have to do with you. It is not so with us. Our young men are strong-headed and foolish. Formerly we had experienced, good chiefs; these are laid in the dust. The descendants of my father are the only good chiefs. Though we made war with other tribes, yet we always looked, and ever will look, upon the whites as our brothers. Our blood is mixed with yours. My heart bleeds for the death of so many good chiefs I have known. For the demand made by you, the old Chief, Teloquoit, is here, speak to him; as regards myself, I am willing to give the families up.

#### TELOQUOIT'S REPLY.

I have listened to your words. Young men, do not forget them! As for war, we have seen little of it, but our fathers know something of it. We know the whites to be our best friends, who have all along prevented us killing one another; that is the reason why we avoid getting into a war with them, and why we do not wish to be separated from them. Besides the tie of blood, the whites have shown us a convincing proof of their attachment to us by burying their dead along side of ours. Chief! your words are weighty—your hairs are gray! We have known you a long

time. You have had an unpleasant trip to this place. I cannot therefore keep these families back; I make them over to you, which I would not do to another younger than yourself.

SERPENT JAUNES' REPLY.

I have nothing to say. I know the Americans to be changeable; still I am of the same opinion as the young chief. The whites are our friends, and we follow your advice. I consent to your taking the families.

Mr. Ogden here addressed two Nez Perces chiefs in behalf of Rev. Mr. Spalding and party; that they should be delivered to him on being paid, and spoke to them at length. The result was that both chiefs (James and Himinilpilp) promised to bring them, provided they were willing to come, and immediately started to effect the same, having a letter from Mr. Ogden to Rev. Mr. Spalding.

[Translation.]

YOUMATILLA, *December 21, 1847.*

PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: The Cayuses, in a moment of despair, have committed acts of atrocity, which, without doubt, you must have learned already, and which I am certain must have grieved you as much as it has afflicted me.

They have massacred Dr. Whitman, his wife, and the Americans who lived with him.

Mr. Brouillet, vicar general of this mission, who went to Wailatpu, arrived there on Tuesday evening, and therefore, for the first time heard the painful intelligence. On Wednesday he had the dead bodies clothed and buried, and before starting, demanded of the Indians not to harm the women and children, whose fate had not been decided. But he could obtain no assurance that this demand would be complied with, as the chiefs were not present. After his arrival here, and as soon as I had been informed of what had happened, I instantly sent for the two chiefs, whose lodges are near my house.

After having made known to them, without delay, how much I was grieved in consequence of the commission of such an atrocious act, I told them that I hoped the women and children would be spared until they could be sent to the Willamette.

They answered: We pity them; they shall not be harmed; they shall be taken care of as before.

I have since had the consolation to learn that they have been true to their word, and that they have taken care of these poor people.

A few days afterwards, I do not know under what pretext, two other Americans, who were sick, were also massacred.

On the arrival of the Chiefs Sahaptin, Trumilpilp, and Sepianahtheit, (Nez Perces,) I was enabled to make new efforts to save not only the women and children, but also the Rev. Mr. Spalding, his family, and the

Americans at his station. After an interview with the chiefs separately, I succeeded in assembling them in council, which was held yesterday, and lasted four hours and a half, each of the chiefs delivered a speech before giving his opinion. The document which accompanies the present will show you the result. It is sufficient to state that all these speeches went to show that since they had been instructed by the whites, they abhorred war, and that the tragedy of the 20th had occurred from an anxious desire of self preservation; and that it was the reports made against the Doctor and others which led them to commit this act. They desire to have the past forgotten, and to live in peace as before.

Your excellency has to judge of the value of the document which I have been requested to forward to you; nevertheless, without having the least intention to influence one way or the other, I feel myself obliged to tell you that by going to war with the Cayuses you will undoubtedly have all the Indians of this country against you. Would it be to the interest of a young colony to expose herself? But that you will have to decide with your council.

Mr. Spalding's letter, which I have the honor to forward to you, merits consideration.

Receive the assurance of the high consideration with which I am your excellency's very humble and most obedient servant,

Aug. Mage. ALEX. BLANCHET,  
*Bishop of Walla Walla.*

To his Excellency GEO. ABERNETHY,  
*Governor of Oregon Territory.*

[Translation.]

PLACE OF TAWATOE, YOUMATILLA,  
December 20, 1847.

The principal chiefs of the Cayuses in council assembled, decide:

That a young Indian, who understands English, and who slept in Dr. Whitman's room, heard the Doctor, his wife, and Mr. Spalding, express their desire of possessing the Indians lands and their animals.

He also states that Mr. Spalding had said to the Doctor "Hurry, give medicines to the Indians, that they may soon die."

That the same Indian told the Cayuses, if you do not kill the Doctor soon you will all be dead before spring.

That they buried six Cayuses on the following Sunday, the 28th of November, and three the next day.

That the schoolmaster, Mr. Rodgers, stated to them before he died, that the Doctor, his wife, and Mr. Spalding poisoned the Indians.

That for several years past they had to deplore the death of their children, and that they, according to these reports, were led to believe that the whites had undertaken to kill them all.

That these are the motives which led them to kill the Americans.

The same chiefs ask at present:

1st. That the Americans may not go to war with the Cayuses.

2d. That they may forget the lately committed murders, as the Cayuses will forget the murder of the son of the great chief of Walla Walla, committed in California.

3d. That two or three great men may come up to conclude peace.

4th. That as soon as these great men have arrived and concluded peace, they may take with them all the women and children.

5th. They give assurance that they will not harm the Americans before the arrival of these three great men.

6th. They ask that the Americans may not travel any more through their country, as their young men might do them harm.

Names of the Chiefs. {  
 TILOKATE.  
 CAMASPALO.  
 TAWATOE.  
 ACHEKAIA.

L. P. ROSSEAU, D. }  
 G. LÉCLAIRE, S. D. } Witnesses.

True copy:

L. P. G. ROSSEAU, *Missionary.*

*List of men, women, and children, from Dr. Whitman's mission.*

Joseph Smith, }  
 Hannah Smith, } Parents.  
 Mary Smith, 15 years old;  
 Edwin Smith, 13 years old;  
 Charles Smith, 11 year old;  
 Nelson Smith, 6 years old;  
 Mortimer Smith, 4 years old;  
 Mary Saunders, *mother*;  
 Helen M. Saunders, 14 years old;  
 Pheba L. Saunders, 10 years old;  
 Alfred W. Saunders, 7 years old;  
 Mary Jane Saunders, 4 years old;  
 Mary A. Saunders, 2 years old;  
 Harriet Kimball, *mother*;  
 Susan M. Kimball, 16 years old;  
 Nathan M. Kimball, 12 years old;  
 Byron S. Kimball, 8 years old;  
 Sarah S. Kimball, 6 years old;  
 Mina N. Kimball, 1 year old;  
 Josiah Osborn, }  
 Margaret Osborn, } Parents.  
 Nancy Osborn, 9 years old;  
 John L. Osborn, 3 years old;  
 Alex. A. Osborn, 2 years old;  
 Rebecca Hays, *mother*;  
 H. Clay Hays, 4 years old;  
 Joseph Stanfield;  
 Sally Ann Canfield;  
 Hellen Canfield, 16 years old;  
 Ascassa Canfield, 9 years old;  
 Clarissa Canfield, 7 years old;  
 Sylvia A. Canfield, 5 years old;  
 Albert Canfield, 3 years old;

Eliza Hall, *mother*;

G. Jane Hall, 10 years old;

Mary C. Hall, 8 years old;

Anne E. Hall, 6 years old;

Rebecca Hall, 3 years old;

Rachael Hall, 1 year old;

Elam Young, } Parents.

Irine Young, }

Daniel Young, 21 years old;

John Young, 19 years old;

Miss L. Bewley;

Miss E. Marsh, 11 years old.

*Mission Children.*

Catharine Sager,

Elizabeth Sager,

Matilda J. Sager,

Henrietta N. Sager,

Mary A. Bridger,

Eliza Spalding.

*From Mr. Spalding's mission.*

Mr. Spalding,

Mrs. Spalding,

Henry Spalding,

Martha Spalding,

Amelia Spalding,

Mr. Hart,

Mr. Jackson,

Mr. Canfield,

Mr. Craig,

Miss Johnson.

*List of persons killed at Dr. Whitman's station.*

Dr. Whitman,

Mrs. Whitman,

Mr. Rogers,

Mr. Hoffman,

Mr. Sanders, (schoolmaster.)

Mr. Marsh,

John Sager,

Francis Sager, } Youths.

Mr. Kimball,

Mr. Gellen,

Mr. Bewley,

Mr. Young, jr.,

• Mr. Sales,



Mr. Hall,\* (supposed to have been killed at John Day's river.)

*List of property expended out of Nes Perces outfit to recover the American families, &c.*

62 blankets, 3 pts.  
63 common cotton shirts.  
12 common guns.  
600 loads ammunition.  
37 pounds tobacco.  
12 flints.

Received from Teloquoit—appertaining to the mission, for the use of the captives:

7 oxen, small and large.  
16 bags coarse flour.  
E. E.

W. McBEAN.

LETTER OF THANKS.—The following very appropriate letter of thanks to Mr. Ogden, for his important services in rescuing the survivors of the massacre, will be read with much pleasure. A public expression of gratification was given in the salutes which he received at Portland, and upon his arrival here.

OREGON CITY, 17th January, 1848.

SIR: I feel it a duty, as well as a pleasure, to tender you my sincere thanks, and the thanks of this community, for your exertions in behalf of the widows and orphans that were left in the hands of the Cayuse Indians.

Their state was a deplorable one, subject to the caprice of savages, exposed to their insults, compelled to labor for them, and remaining constantly in dread, lest they should be butchered as their husbands and fathers had been.

From this state I am fully satisfied we could not relieve them. A small party of Americans would have been looked upon by them with contempt; a large party would have been the signal for a general massacre.

Your immediate departure from Vancouver on receipt of the intelligence from Waiilatpu enabling you to arrive at Walla Walla before the news of the American party having started from this reached them, together with your influence over the Indians, accomplished the desirable object of relieving the distressed.

Your exertions in behalf of the prisoners will no doubt cause a feeling of

\* It seems that on the day after he had succeeded in escaping the massacre and reaching the fort, he left for the lower country alone, and against all persuasion to the contrary, since which time he has not been heard of, except through Indian report, that he had been killed, &c.—En. SPEC.

pleasure to you through life; but this does not relieve them nor us from the obligations we are under to you. You have also laid the American government under obligation to you, for their citizens were the subject of the massacre, and their widows and orphans are the relieved ones.

With a sincere prayer that the widows, God, and the Father of the fatherless may reward you for your kindness,

I have the honor to remain, sir, your obedient servant.

GEORGE ABERNETHY,

Governor of Oregon Territory.

To PETER SKEEN OGDEN, Esq.,

Chief Factor Honorable H. B. Company, Vancouver.

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Oregon city, 17th January, 1848.

Sir: I feel it a duty as well as a pleasure, to tender you my sincere thanks, and the thanks of this community, for your exertions in behalf of the widows and orphans that were left in the hands of the Cayuse Indians. Their state was a deplorable one, subject to the caprice of savages, exposed to their insults, compelled to labor for them, and remaining constantly in dread, lest they should be butchered as their husbands and others had been.

From this state I am fully satisfied we could not relieve them. A small party of Americans would have been looked upon by them with contempt; a large party would have been the signal for a general massacre. Your immediate departure from Vancouver on receipt of the intelligence of the American party having started from Walla Walla before the news of your influence over the Indians, accomplished the desirable object of relieving the distressed. Your exertions in behalf of the prisoners will no doubt cause a feeling of

It seems that on the day after he had succeeded in escaping the massacre still reaching the fort he left for the lower country alone and against all probability to the contrary, since which time he has not been heard of, except through Indian report, that he had been killed, &c.—Ed.